

## Abstract of the Disclosure

A knife holder for a microtome has a plate arranged pivotably on its base member and arranged <sup>to cover</sup> covering the cutting edge of the knife, spaced apart from the cutting plane to the side of the knife holder remote from the specimen side, and at the same time spaced apart from the knife holder on the side of the cutting edge of the knife. Any gripping of the cutting edge of the knife is precluded in the functional position of this plate. The pivoting mechanism for the plate is coupled to a switch. When the plate is pivoted out of the functional position, the motor drive of the cutting movement is locked, or a brake precludes any movement of the knife slide or specimen slide. The plate preferably consists of a transparent material so that observation of section removal is possible even when the protective device is in the functional position. ←\*